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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 7832**
Katsuya WATANABE et al. : Attorney Docket No. 2003_1360
Serial No. 10/677,169 : Group Art Unit 2651
Filed October 2, 2003 :
OPTICAL DISK APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and any additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for:

- ☒ each U.S. Patent and U.S. Patent application publication;
- ☐ each reference previously cited in the international application PCT/_____; and/or
- ☐ each reference previously cited in prior parent application Serial No. _____.

1a. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, **or**

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

(1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**

(2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or

b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
- a. ☐ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
 - b. ☒ a foreign patent office action submitted herewith,
 - c. ☐ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
 - d. ☐ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
 - e. ☒ the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:

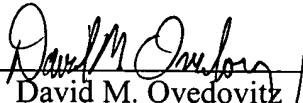
U.S. 5,414,451 and U.S. 5,614,938 correspond to JP 5-101398
EP 0 414 380 corresponds to JP 3-54740
U.S. 6,728,195 corresponds to JP 3-219440

5. ☐ A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.
6. ☐ Statement Under 37 CFR 1.704(d)

Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart application, and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Katsuya WATANABE et al.

By 
David M. Ovedovitz
Registration No. 45,336
Attorney for Applicants

DMO/jmj
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
November 18, 2005

Sheet 1 of 1									
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: left;"> <p>FORM PTO 1449 (modified)</p> <p>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</p> <p>LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)</p> <p>Date Submitted to PTO: November 18, 2005</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</p> <p>NOV 18 2005</p> <p>U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</p> </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>ATTY DOCKET NO. 2003_1360</p> <p>SERIAL NO. 10/677,169</p> <p>APPLICANT Katsuya WATANABE et al.</p> <p>FILING DATE October 2, 2003</p> <p>GROUP 2651</p> </div> </div>									
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS									
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE		
	AA	5,414,451	5/1995	Sugiyama et al.					
	AB	5,614,938	3/1997	Sugiyama et al.					
	AC	6,728,195	4/2004	Satoh et al.					
	AD								
	AE								
	AF								
	AG								
	AH								
	AI								
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS									
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO		
	AJ	5-101398	4/1993	JP					
	AK	0 414 380	2/1991	EP					
	AL	3-54740	3/1991	JP					
	AM	3-219440	9/1991	JP					
	AN								
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)									
	AO								
	AP								
	AQ								
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED				

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.